Benefits to poor under Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1620. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the *'Statesman'* dated June 2, 1992, captioned "Poverty Alleviation—potential beneficiaries left out";

(b) if so, what is the extent to which benefits of poverty alleviation programmes failed to reach the really poor people and were cornered by middlemen and other vested interests during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and till date; and

(c) what specific steps are being contemplated during the Eighth Five Year Plan to ensure that the benefits of such programmes reach those for whom the same are meant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the 3rd Round Survey of Concurrent evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) held during January —December, 1989 only in 6 per cent cases non-poor families were assisted. Engagement of contractors and middlemen are strictly forbidden for works under JRY. A schedule of inspection has also been laid-down under which a certain percentage of works is to be inspected by the officers of State Government at various levels. Institutional arrangements involving elected representatives as well as officials have also been involved. Thus all efforts are taken to ensure proper implementation of the programmes.

(c) Government of India in cognizance of the importance which should be given to correct identification of poor families had issued instructions on November 15, 1991 to all State Governments to conduct a fresh household survey of families in each village in order to identify those families which existed below the revised poverty line of Rs. 11,000. To ensure that the identification of BPL families is done properly certain safeguards and procedures have also been clearly enunciated. The State Governments have started the work relating to BPL survey according to instructions issued by the Centre and shall be sending the results on completion of the survey. Besides, the control and monitoring system in vogue now will also be continued during the Eighth Plan.

Use of Forest Wasteland

1621. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a massive programme to utilise gainfully the vast stretches of forest wasteland for growing palm and other plantation crops; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme indicating the hectares of land to be utilised in each State with employment opportunities to the rural poor?